GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1862
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Abuse of Steroids
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pharma market is flooded with fairness creams containing combinations of potent and super potent topical corticosteroids with various antifungal and antibacterial properties and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether hundreds of brands of combination creams containing mometasone furoate, a potent corticosteriod along with tretinion and hydroquinone are being marketed not only to physicians but directly to the public as fairness creams and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether any taskforce of doctors has been formed to prevent the abuse of topical steroids recently; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (b): Fixed Dose Combinations containing combinations of topical corticosteroids with antifungal / antibacterial are available in the market.
Topical formulations containing mometasone furoate along with tretinoin and hydroquinone is approved by the office of DCG(I) for short term intermittent treatment of moderate to severe melasma of the face in the presence of measures for sun avoidance including use of sun screen. As per Schedule J to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945, no drug may purport or claim to prevent or cure or may convey to the intending user thereof any idea that it may give fairness of the skin.
Manufacturing, sale and distribution of drugs in the country is regulated under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 made thereunder through a system of inspection & licensing. Licenses for manufacturing, sale and distribution of drugs are granted by State Licensing Authorities appointed by respective State Governments. The State licensing Authorities are empowered to take action in case of non-compliance with any provisions of the Act or the Rules.
(c) & (d): No taskforce of doctors has been formed to prevent the abuse of topical steroids recently under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

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